



TO: The Honorable Craig Hickman
The Honorable Laura Supica, Co-Chairs
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

DATE: April 28, 2025

RE: LD 1415: An Act to Expand Reporting Requirements for Legislators and Lobbyists

Good morning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and committee members,

My name is Anna Kellar, and I am the Executive Director of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. I am testifying in favor of LD 1415.

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections has been the leading campaign finance organization in Maine for over twenty years and one of the nation's most respected state-based organizations advocating for democratically funded elections. We are proud of our national reputation. But we are all Mainers, and our nonpartisan mission has always been with and for the people of this state.

This bill is in keeping with the principles of transparency and public access to information. Financial transactions between lobbyists and legislators are worthy of scrutiny due to the potential influence on a legislator's actions. The same principle applies when a lobbyist contributes to a fundraiser for a legislator or political action committee, or donates to charitable causes at the behest of a legislator.

We would be interested to know how common this practice is. Requiring disclosure would allow us to better understand the extent of the phenomenon.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee.